Seven shapes to be
   exact— vessels of
   clay,
   each a different
shape each a different color
   from different parts of North Carolina
&   outfitted with a small amplifier
because the life of clay transcends
   the kiln

What I mean is: there are bowls
   destined for the kitchen and there are
   bowls in showrooms that invite
dust
   [room for a third there are]
What I mean is : who gathered the
   earth? What sounds shaped its
formation?

… As you approach the shapes, you might hear
   flowing water or the grind of gears in a factory

Resist the urge to
   as you approach with slowing steps
   you might find yourself
walking beside a creek
in Madison County where the clay was

wondering how long
   clay will remain clay in this climate
   or how to modernly
honor place &
   with
   so much
   talking

Eric Steineger